

had a unique personal teaching style that inspired his students to engage with history and learn invaluable life lessons. A true patriot, Mr. Griffith served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps and his reverence for our Constitution guided both his service to our nation and the community.

Mr. Griffith was remembered by students and colleagues alike as a truly world class story teller. By framing historical events in this unique context, he was able to reach thousands of students and instill in them a true and full appreciation of history and of the importance of historical events and documents. Mr. Griffith was also an ardent follower of politics, and he bestowed upon his students an appreciation for the importance of participating in American democracy.

Mr. Griffith was also a loving and committed husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Sara Lynn, his three sons, Edward, Brett and Lucas, his two grandchildren, Nathan and James, and scores of friends, colleagues and students. To some, Wendell Griffith will be remembered as an inspiring teacher, to others as a true American patriot. To his family and friends, he will be remembered as a loyal and caring family man.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Wendell Griffith. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Griffith family.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH
POTTER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sorrow today following the passing of Ralph Potter of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Mr. Potter was a proprietor of almost fifty restaurants in the Carolinas, beloved member of the community, devoted family man, dear friend, and effective public servant. Mr. Potter passed away on June 2, 2012 at the age of 75, and he will be dearly missed.

Ralph Potter grew up in Wilmington, attended New Hanover High School, and then enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was the first in his family to graduate from college. He went on to earn his juris doctor from UNC School of Law, which he would later use to serve his community as the president of the state restaurant association. His strong work ethic and intelligence helped earn him the Methodist University's Entrepreneur and Businessman of the Year award, and his restaurants can now be found throughout North and South Carolina. Outside of business, Mr. Potter was devoted to his family, to his church and his community, and he will long remain a well-known and influential figure in Fayetteville.

Mr. Potter was very active in the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association as a reflection of his proud Greek heritage, and supported education efforts through his such as the Ira Douglas Potter Memorial and Ralph M. Potter Scholarship Funds at UNC, as well as a scholarship fund at Salem College. He pushed for the creation of the first Cumberland County Public library, along with

his roles at the board of trustees of Fayetteville Academy and ARC of Cumberland County. He always worked hard to address community challenges in Fayetteville, and always did so with humor and kindness.

Mr. Potter was also recognized for his deep faith in Christ, and was active at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. There he taught Bible study, established the Paris and Potter Endowment Fund for the church, and became a godfather for the church at its consecration. We know today that he is resting at home in peace and joy with his Savior.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Potter was a personal friend of mine and I have the utmost respect for his integrity, business acumen and his strong commitment to church and community. May we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined his life. He is survived by his wife, Dena Fasul Potter, son Nicholas D. Potter, daughter Rebecca Cooke and numerous grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews. May God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

DEPORTATION EXEMPTION FOR
IMMIGRANT ALIENS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I was taken aback by the Administration's announcement last week that it would decline to enforce the law when it comes to the deportation of illegal aliens who were brought to our Nation as young children.

I believe that the president is wrong on this issue—as wrong as he can be.

We are a Nation of immigrants. We take pride in our immigrant roots. Southern West Virginia has a proud history of immigrant families and workers who migrated to the coal fields to live and work.

For every immigrant who came to this country legally, abiding by the process and respecting the law, this action is a slap in the face. For the immigration and border security officers, who are working and risking their lives to enforce the law, this announcement is a slap in the face. For the American workers who will be forced to compete for American jobs against immigrant aliens, this announcement is a slap in the face.

I share the frustration of many Americans in the stubborn refusal of the House Republican Majority in not taking action on critical legislation—a long-term surface transportation, budget and appropriations bills, and a host of expiring laws that run the gamut from tax breaks, to Medicare payments to our hospitals and health providers, to critical government programs; all of which are undermining confidence in the Congress as an institution and acting as deadweight on job creation and growth. To some extent, one could even argue the Congress has invited this executive action by refusing to act to strengthen our Nation's borders and immigration enforcement.

But, a chief executive's decision, to bypass the Congress and refuse to implement the law, is unacceptable. It may make for good

politics in some quarters of our Nation, but it sets a terrible and dangerous precedent.

The Constitution requires the president to enforce the law. It authorizes the president to recommend changes to the law. It does not—does not—permit the president to selectively choose which laws to enforce.

The Congress must disabuse the president and every future president of the notion that laws with which the executive branch disagrees can be ignored. More important than party, and more important than presidential politics, must be the upholding of the Constitution and seeing to it that the laws are faithfully executed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF WILLIE J. O'NEAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Willie J. O'Neal who passed on June 12, 2012 at the age of 74. Mr. O'Neal, known to his family and friends as "Deacon Bill," was an esteemed member of the Northwest Florida community, a proud veteran, and a dedicated servant of God. I am humbled to commemorate his life.

Born in 1937, Deacon Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force, retiring at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he continued to serve his country in the civil service. Earlier this month, Deacon Bill celebrated his 20th year as a deacon at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Niceville, Florida. He spent his days as a fixture at the Eglin Air Force Base Exchange (BX) ministering to countless people from his favorite booth at the BX Starbucks. Deacon Bill was a mentor to some, a minister to many, and a friend to all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life and dedicated service of Willie J. "Deacon Bill" O'Neal. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his children, Monica, Steven, and Mark, five grandchildren, Melony, Ethan, Clare, Grace and Matthew, and their entire family. He will truly be missed by all of us throughout the community.

A TRIBUTE TO ALTON G.
"TUNNEY" BROOKS

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alton G. "Tunney" Brooks, a long-serving coach and athletic director at Lumberton High School, my own alma mater. Coach Brooks was an irreplaceable mentor for many students in our community, a devoted family man, and a dear friend. Coach Brooks passed away on the morning of May 4, 2012, after a three-year battle with lung cancer, and he will be deeply missed.

Driven by a strong love for his community and a deep investment in its youth, Coach Brooks coached numerous sports during his